



On **Dignity** and **Survival**

Providing a safe and affordable
home for Israel's elderly

About Amigour

Founded in 1972 as a non-profit company, Amigour is a subsidiary of the Jewish Agency and is Israel's leading sheltered housing company and second largest public housing group.

Amigour is committed to easing the plight and meeting the needs of Holocaust survivors, new immigrants and elderly men and women living in Israel. It pursues this worthy objective by: constructing affordable housing for the elderly, renovating existing housing for its residents and taking innovative measures to enhance their welfare and quality of life through a multi-faceted network of social, cultural and recreational facilities.

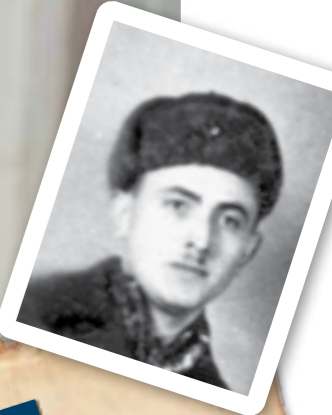
There are 650,000 Israelis over the age of 65, many of whom live close to the poverty line and cannot afford to purchase or even rent sustainable lodgings. Amigour operates fifty-seven housing projects nationwide to provide basic living needs for over 7,500 disadvantaged elderly. A large majority of these are new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and Holocaust survivors. Without support, these men and women would face devastation and ruin.

In addition to putting a roof over their heads, Amigour housing projects provide residents with a broad range of social and cultural services in its on-site facilities. This rich and varied programming, from art workshops to exercise classes and from concerts to volunteering, greatly enhances the residents' quality of life. Many of these activities are carried out in partnership with community centers, schools, the Israel Defense Forces and local volunteers.

Amigour receives funding for existing projects from the Israeli Government, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Claims Conference, Keren Hayesod, Federations, Foundations and personal donors. While Amigour currently provides 1,300 residential units for the elderly, the need is constantly growing with some 30,000 seniors still lacking proper housing and who are on a waiting list.

To counter the critical shortage of nursing facilities in Israel, Amigour has built two new nursing homes in Kiryat Yam, providing a combined 80 new nursing beds for Amigour residents. These facilities provide 24-hour care and intensive treatment programs.

Amigour works in cooperation with Yad Vashem on various projects. "Preserving the Memories"- Amigour gathered 1,000 testimonials from its Holocaust survivor residents, compiled them into 50 volumes, and entered them into the Yad Vashem Archives for posterity. "Yad Vashem's Gathering the Fragments Program honors the memory of Holocaust victims, their families and the many Jewish communities that suffered under Nazi tyranny in World War II. In cooperation with this vital undertaking, Amigour encourages its tenants, many of whom are Holocaust survivors, to donate their personal effects, tokens and relics of those dark times to Yad Vashem, the national institute dedicated to the commemoration of Holocaust victims.



SEMION ROSENFIELD
Semion, one of the leaders of the uprising in the Sobibor death camp, fought in the Red Army and was among the liberators of Berlin. In 1990, Semion made Aliyah with his family to Israel.



The Need

Amigour's Call to Action

Its foremost need is to provide affordable housing to Israel's low-income elderly population. Amigour currently runs fifty-seven housing facilities serving more than 7,500 underprivileged senior residents, most of whom are Holocaust survivors and immigrants from the Former Soviet Union.

Responsive to the needs of its residents, Amigour seeks to maintain their independence in a safe environment at its housing projects. In keeping

As a leading operator of public and sheltered housing in Israel, Amigour's Call to Action is a response to multi-faceted needs.

with its long-held belief that sustainable housing is a cornerstone of quality of life, Amigour builds on that bedrock by providing a social and cultural structure, with the aim to maintain the dignity and welfare of its most deserving residents. As many elderly men and women suffer from loneliness and are in sore need of a social, recreational and creative outlet, Amigour creates a vibrant community life encompassing a wide range of activities.



Recognizing these needs, Amigour's Call to Action encompasses:

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS

With the growth of Israel's elderly population and an influx of aging new immigrants who entered the country over the last ten years, around 30,000 seniors live in terrible poverty conditions and lack proper housing and who are on a waiting list..

RENOVATIONS

Since many of its existing housing facilities were built decades ago, there is also a constant need to renovate old buildings, both externally and internally.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Organized choirs and concert events.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Aerobic breathing, chair exercises and strength training.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

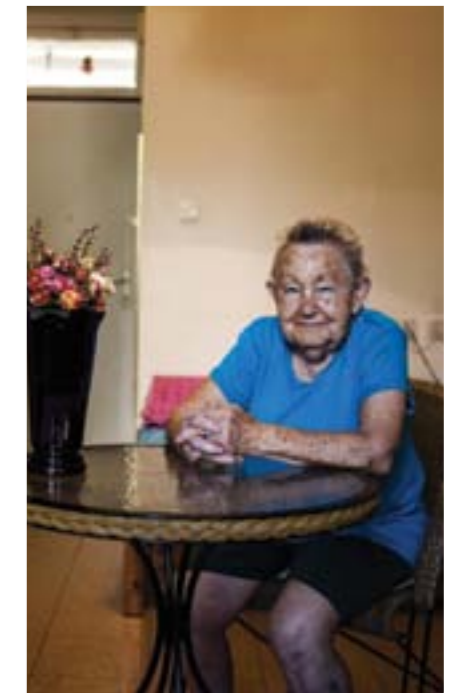
Various topics of interest in a classroom setting including workshops, films and lectures.

OUTINGS

Field trips, picnics, and guided tours of historic sites throughout Israel.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrating Israeli Independence Day, Israeli Veterans Day, Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 9th Celebration and religious Jewish holidays.



First and Foremost

Providing Safe and Affordable Housing for the Needy

Amigour provides affordable housing for Israel's disadvantaged elderly, including new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and Holocaust survivors. With the aim to maintain the dignity and enhance the quality of life of its residents in their golden years, the Amigour Sheltered Housing structure encompasses a broad network of organized social and cultural activities at its fifty-seven nationwide Amigour Sheltered Housing facilities.

This vital undertaking responds to the needs of its residents who, in their twilight years, are in dire need of personal enrichment and a sense of community. Once their housing needs are addressed, it is essential that Amigour residents intermingle within an organized framework.

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Amigour provides residents with a most vital outlet, affording them opportunities for social interaction, creative expression, enriching cultural experiences and an incentive to expand their horizons. Above all, Amigour social clubs help fill a void in their lives, enhance their self-esteem and well-being and make them feel accepted and wanted in Israeli society.

Towards this end, each Amigour housing facility provides an array of activities such as study groups, physical fitness sessions, music classes, field trips and holiday celebrations for up to 100 participants in organized social clubs located on site.



Construction Projects and Building Renovations

The needs of low-income, elderly men and women, most of whom are Holocaust survivors and immigrants from the Former Soviet Union are multi-faceted. Providing them with reasonably priced, comfortable homes answers their most pressing need.

There are currently 650,000 Israeli residents over the age of 65. One-third of these senior citizens live at or below the poverty line, with virtually no means to rent or purchase a home. With the growth of Israel's elderly population and an influx of aging new immigrants who entered the country over the last ten years, around 30,000 seniors live in terrible poverty conditions and lack proper housing.

Amigour is dedicated to restoring the dignity of Israel's elderly by constructing new, affordable housing. Amigour has plans to launch several crucial renovation projects. These cover both the external reconstruction of building facades, surrounding courtyards and landscaping, as well as internal renovations of living quarters, lobbies, club rooms, and the like.



Social Clubs in Amigour Homes

The social club is the focal point and main meeting place of our elderly residents. Under the direction of Amigour's professional staff and coordinators, these clubs provide an array of cultural and recreational activities including: music workshops, choir sessions, theater seminars, lectures on various subjects of interest, physical exercise sessions, Hebrew studies, arts and crafts, daily outings and holiday celebrations.

The advantages enjoyed by the elderly residents of Amigour sheltered housing facilities around Israel are manifold: they provide a structured framework for leisurely activities, social interaction, encourage the formation of relationships, create a stimulating environment and sense of community and above all, enhance the well-being and quality of life of deserving elderly people.



The Bat Yam Choir

The encouragement of a stimulating cultural environment and valued leisure time is a shared quality at Amigour facilities, which run workshops in areas such as literature, theater and music. There are currently 30 active choirs at Amigour housing projects. The choir in Bat Yam is the most exceptional one, and also the most prolific.

The Bat Yam Choir consists of 15 singers and instrumentalists. Its rich repertoire celebrates popular songs, folk songs and classics in Russian, Yiddish, French and Hebrew. The choir is conducted by Michael Bassin and managed by Laura Aryev, who were highly acclaimed in musical circles in their

countries of origin prior to their arrival in Israel. Apart from its regular sessions and performances at the Bat Yam social club, the choir also appears regularly at other Amigour housing projects as well as day care centers, music clubs and various institutions for elderly audiences from all over Israel. This ongoing relationship between the much-applauded choir and its hundreds of enthusiasts is a godsend for both the performers and audiences, who are afforded regular opportunities for musical expression and musical appreciation.

Your show of support can encourage a most vital musical undertaking that enriches the lives of many deserving elderly people.

Preserving the Memories

Gathering the Fragments, Book of Life

Yad Vashem's Gathering the Fragments Program honors the memory of Holocaust victims, their families and the many Jewish communities that suffered under Nazi tyranny in World War II. In cooperation with this vital undertaking, Amigour encourages its tenants, many of whom are Holocaust survivors, to donate their personal effects, tokens and relics of those dark times to Yad Vashem, the national institute dedicated to the commemoration of Holocaust victims. By collecting the stories and keepsakes of those who survived, and in many cases the bits and pieces that belonged to those who perished and were kept over the years by surviving kin, Amigour is partaking in a momentous Jewish endeavor.

Under the program, Amigour residents donate items such as clothing with the sewn Star of David, remnants of Torah scrolls used by the Nazis as wrapping paper, the drawings of frightened children

in the ghettos and diaries relating the horrors of the concentration camps. These items are received by Yad Vashem where they are catalogued, maintained and made accessible to researchers, students and the general public.

"Preserving the Memories" - Amigour gathered 1,000 testimonials from its Holocaust survivor residents, compiled them into 50 volumes, and entered them into the Yad Vashem Archives for posterity.



For over 7,500 elderly Holocaust survivors and new immigrants residing in Amigour residential facilities, Amigour is not just a building, but a true home. It is a place where they feel safe, nourished and loved. Join the Amigour family and help us provide Israel's elderly with a dignified future.

